

On January 14, 2002, Weston filed its application for authority to provide resold interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina and for alternative regulation of certain of its service offerings (“Interexchange Application”). Subsequently, Easton, LLC, Easton, Inc. and Weston filed a joint application for Commission approval of the following: (1) the *nunc pro tunc* acquisition by Easton, LLC of certain assets from Easton, Inc., (2) the transfer of Easton, Inc.’s certificates and applicable tariffs to Easton, LLC, (3) the name change of Weston Telecommunications, LLC to Easton Telecom Services, LLC, (4) the authority for Easton, LLC f/k/a Weston, to provide local telecommunications services, (5) flexible regulation for Easton, LLC, (6) that the hearing on this matter be consolidated with the hearing on Weston’s application for authority, and (6) to grant such relief on an expedited basis (“Asset Acquisition Application”). At the time of the joint filing, the Applicants requested that the Interexchange Application and the Asset Acquisition Application be consolidated into a single proceeding in light of the interrelation between both Applications and in the interest of administrative efficiency. The Applicants stated further that given the interrelatedness of the Applications, a consolidation of proceedings will enable the Commission to consider and act on the Applications contemporaneously through a single proceeding and order.

The Commission finds that the Applications of Easton Telecom Services, LLC, Easton Telecom Services, Inc., and Weston Telecommunications, LLC should be consolidated and heard on the same date. We find that the consolidation of these two Applications will prevent the need for two hearings and will reduce expenses related to

the proceeding for the Applicants and the Commission. Finally, we do not believe that any party will be prejudiced by the consolidation of these applications into one hearing.

Accordingly, we hereby approve the consolidation of the hearings in Docket Nos. 2002-22-C and 2002-189-C. Further, we suspend all hearing dates and prefiling dates previously ordered by us in these Dockets, and also order the revised dates as set forth below. The hearing shall be held on **August 21, 2002 at 10:30 AM**. Revised prefiling dates for all testimony and exhibits are as follows:

Pursuant to 26 S.C. Regs.103-869(C)(Supp. 2001), the Commission hereby orders that twenty-five copies of the direct testimony and exhibits of the Applicants shall be pre-filed on or before **July 24, 2002**, and that twenty-five copies of the direct testimony and exhibits of the Commission Staff and/or any intervenors shall be pre-filed on or before **August 7, 2002**. (Material may be post-marked on these dates.) Also, any rebuttal testimony and exhibits of the Applicants shall be pre-filed on or before **August 14, 2002**, and any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits of the Commission Staff and any intervenors shall be pre-filed on or before **August 16, 2002**. (Material must be in the offices of the Commission and in the hands of the parties on these dates.) It should be noted that acceptance into the record of surrebuttal testimony and exhibits is subject to the discretion of the Commission.

Further, the Applicant shall pre-file with its testimony and exhibits twenty-five copies of any script(s) employed by the Applicant or its telemarketers for the solicitation and sale of its long distance services in other jurisdictions, or an outline of the Applicant's telemarketing procedures and/or training materials for telemarketers. In

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addition, parties shall serve their pre-filed testimony and exhibits (and/or scripts or other materials) on all other parties of record as required by the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All parties are reminded that all witnesses must be present during any hearing in this matter at the call of the Chairman, or the Commission may decline to allow the witnesses' testimony to be read into the record of the proceeding, and/or may decline to allow the witnesses' exhibits to be entered into the evidence of the case.

Please take note that any party requesting modification of this schedule must file a request for such modification with the Commission.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)